



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International Organizations in Vienna

Statement by the delegation of Ukraine in response to the Co-Chairs of the Geneva International Discussions

As delivered by Ambassador Yevhenii Tsymbaliuk
to the 1247th meeting of the Permanent Council,
14 November 2019

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine fully supports and aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union. At the same time, we would also like to add some remarks in the national capacity.

Ukraine strongly condemns Russia's ongoing illegal occupation of Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali, including stationing of the Russian military bases and constant military drills, which threaten security and stability in a wider region. The humanitarian situation in Georgia's occupied regions continues to deteriorate, and the Russian Federation bears full responsibility for violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in those territories.

Of particular concern are the ongoing so-called "borderization" activities carried out by the Russian occupation administration. We call for the immediate re-opening of all crossing points on the administrative boundary line with Georgia's region South Ossetia. The ongoing closure of crossing points is aggravating an already difficult situation on the ground, with a severe impact on the local conflict-affected population. These illegal steps further compound the blatant violations of fundamental norms and principles of international law committed by Russia.

In this regard we remind Russia that fulfilment of the OSCE principles and commitments, as well as the EU mediated 2008 Ceasefire Agreement, remains a key to sustainable peace and security in the OSCE region. We call the Russian Federation to ensure the full implementation of its obligations under the ceasefire agreement of 12 August 2008.

Ukraine reaffirms its strong support of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.